

The Green Cross Code



The first version of the Green Cross Code was produced in the 1970s. The Code is still used today. Its aim is to help all children to keep safe when crossing the road.

1 First find a safe place to cross

- If possible, cross the road using: islands, zebra, puffin, pelican or toucan crossings, subways, footbridges, or where there is a crossing point controlled by a police officer, a school crossing patrol or a traffic warden.
- Otherwise, choose a place where you can see clearly in all directions, and where drivers can see you.
- Try to avoid crossing between parked cars, on sharp bends or close to the top of a hill. Move to a space where drivers and riders can see you clearly.
- There should be space to reach the pavement on the other side.

2 Stop just before you get to the kerb

- Do not get too close to the traffic. If there is no pavement, keep back from the edge of the road but make sure you can still see approaching traffic.
- Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.

3 Look all around for traffic and listen

- Look in every direction.
- Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.

4 If traffic is coming, let it pass

- Look all around again and listen.
- Do not cross until there is a safe gap in the traffic and you are certain that there is plenty of time.
- Remember, even if traffic is a long way off, it may be approaching very quickly.

5 When it is safe, go straight across the road – do not run

- Keep looking and listening for traffic while you cross, in case there is any traffic you did not see, or in case other traffic appears suddenly.
- Look out for cyclists and motorcyclists travelling between lanes of traffic.
- When it is safe, go straight across the road. Do not cross diagonally.

Department for Transport